

Dear Chairman McCrory, Chairman Sanchez, Ranking Member Berthel, Ranking Member McCarty, Vice Chairs, and distinguished members of the committee,

My name is Sarah Johnson; and I'm a Norwalk member of the Race and Social Justice Coalition at St. Paul's. I have participated in a tutoring program at Norwalk High School for the past six years, working in a bilingual math classroom until the pandemic began, now continuing to support the students and their amazing teacher from afar with supplies and notes of encouragement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 5283. While Norwalk students and their teachers continue to excel, it is unreasonable that they are less funded than those students in the surrounding towns of Darien, Wilton, New Canaan, and Westport where the demographics of the student populations are clearly more homogeneous and wealthier than Norwalk's. While the demographics of the student populations differ, their need for learning opportunities and intelligence do not. As an attempt to begin eliminating the systemic racism that has plagued our state, HB 5283 is a good start and should be supported.

Very truly yours,

Sarah Lovering Johnson